

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2875**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hugues CHERON et al.

Group Art Unit: 2875

Application No.: 10/790,867

Examiner: I. NEGRON

Filed: March 3, 2004

Docket No.: 111393.01

For: A CAR BODY PANEL WITH INTEGRAL LIGHT UNIT

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the October 25, 2006 Office Action, the period for reply extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested. Claim 1 is pending.

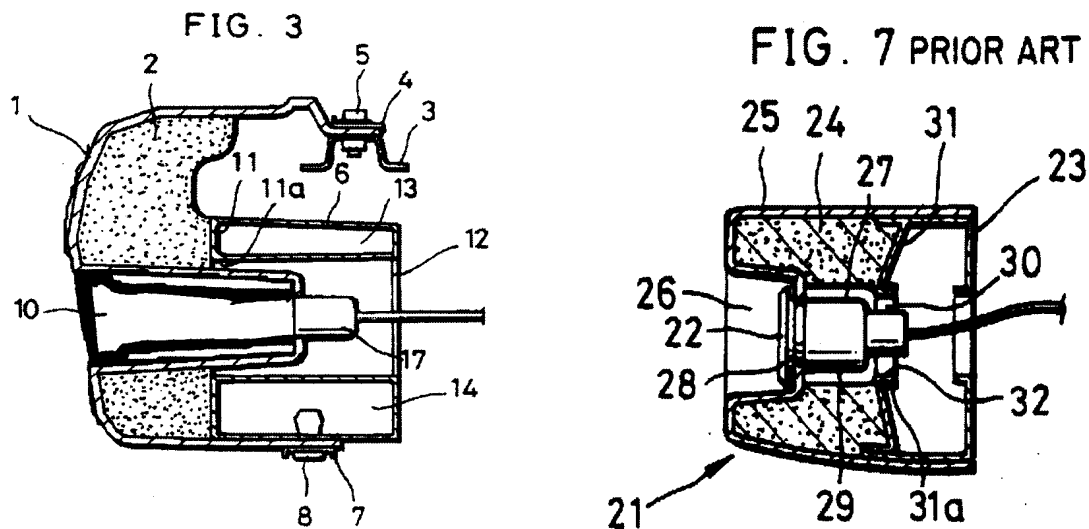
Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Haneda et al. (Haneda), U.S. Patent No. 4,996,634, in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 4,809,144. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In reply to the rejection, Applicants' (1) further clarify Haneda and (2) then traverse the rejection.

(1) After further reviewing Haneda, Applicants assert that Haneda does disclose a signal lamp with a bulb, a housing and a lens/glass. Applicants provide this assertion based

on the disclosure of Haneda's Figs. 3, 7 and 8. Applicants provide the following explanation in order to understand what Haneda's Fig. 3 discloses.

As illustrated in Haneda's Fig. 3, the signal lamp 10 is placed in a recess of the bumper shell 1. Although not labeled in Fig. 3, Haneda calls this recess a lamp accommodating recess 26 in Fig. 7 (col. 1, lines 26-27). When comparing both of Haneda's Figs 3 and 7, it is clear that the general structure of the bumper shell is the same and that the terminology and structure used in Fig. 7 would be used in Fig. 3.



In Haneda's Fig. 3, the signal lamp 10 is inserted in the lamp accommodating recess and attached to the bumper shell 1 (column 3, lines 18-19), and in Fig. 7, the lamp 22 is inserted in the lamp accommodating recess 26.

Haneda discusses various lamps that can be used. Haneda's Fig. 8 illustrates a lamp 39 that could be used in Figs. 3 and 7. As is clear from Fig. 8, the lamp 39 includes a bulb, a housing and a lens/glass. In Haneda's Fig. 7, the lamp 22 also includes a bulb, a housing and a lens/glass. In Fig. 7, the lamp 22 does not fill the entire recess 26. In Haneda's Fig. 3, the lamp 10 is linked to the inside of the recess of the bumper shell 1 and is discussed as having a bulb 17 (col. 3, line 19). Based on the previous lamps in Figs. 7 and 8, one skilled in the art

would conclude that the lamp 10 of Fig. 3 includes not only the bulb 17 but also a housing and a lens/glass. Applicants provide this assertion because the lamps of Figs. 3, 7 and 8 are each inserted in the recess of a bumper shell. However, contrary to the previous embodiments, the lamp 10 fills all the space of the recess (as indicated by the heavy line above) such that the bumper seems to be flat and the recess is not visible. As a result, Haneda's Fig. 3 lamp 10 includes a bulb 17, a housing and a lens/glass.

(2) Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest an outside skin of a car bumper that includes an arrangement forming at least a portion of at least the glass of the light unit, the glass being assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection, as recited in claim 1.

Because Haneda's signal lamp 10 includes a bulb 17, a housing and a lens/glass as discussed above, Haneda's Fig. 3 separately discloses (1) a signal lamp 10 having as component elements both a housing suitable for containing at least one light source (bulb 17) and a glass enabling light emitted by the light source to be diffused.

Suzuki discloses a vehicle headlamp (Fig. 1) with a lens 2 that is attached to a housing 1. As previously discussed, Suzuki does not disclose an outside skin of a car bumper although it is clear that the vehicle headlamp would be placed in a recess formed in a vehicle.

Applicants note that Haneda is directed to a signal lamp 10 and Suzuki is directed to a vehicle headlamp. As such, Haneda's signal lamp 10 does not suffer the same problems of Suzuki (i.e., moisture) because it is smaller. In addition, Suzuki uses a gasket seal between the lens 2 and the housing 1 (Fig. 1). As such, even if Suzuki's lens 2 replaced Haneda's lens/glass, one skilled in the art would have been motivated to use a gasket seal between the housing of Haneda's lamp 10 and the lens/glass, and this arrangement would teach away from using an outside skin of a car bumper that includes an arrangement forming at least a portion

of at least the glass of the light unit, the glass being assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection, as recited in claim 1.

Even if Suzuki's lens 2 replaced the lens/glass of Haneda, the resultant lens/glass would not be assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection, as recited in claim 1. Even if Suzuki's vehicle headlamp replaced Haneda's signal lamp 10, the lens 2 would not be assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection because neither of Haneda's lens/glass or Suzuki's lens 2 is attached in this manner. Furthermore, even if only Suzuki's lens 2 was used to replace the lens/glass of Haneda, the lens 2 would be attached to Haneda's housing using a gasket seal (as used in Suzuki) and would not be assembled to the outside skin of the bumper shell 1 by overmolding or co-injection, as recited in claim 1.

There is no disclosure or suggestion with regard to using both of Suzuki's lens 2 and the lens/glass of Haneda at the same time. In addition, there is no disclosure or suggestion to assemble a glass in a way that is different than the way in which Haneda attaches the lens/glass and Suzuki attaches the lens 2.


Applicants finally note that they are not reciting a product by process limitation. Applicants claim 1 defines how the glass is assembled to the outside skin (glass being assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection).

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 26, 2007

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